

## Message Text

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43

ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1188

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENATORS JAVITS AND MATHIAS TO ISRAEL:

ARAB-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN LUNCHEON DISCUSSION AT RESIDENCE ON APRIL 22 WITH PRO-MINENT ISRAELIS INCLUDING MINISTER OF JUSTICE ZADOK, SENATOR JAVITS SAID THAT USEFULNESS OF STEP BY STEP NEGOTIATIONS HAD CLEARLY COME TO AN END AND THAT WE SHOULD NOW PUSH FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. SENATOR MATHIAS INTERJECTED TO ADD THAT THE SETTLEMENT COULD OF COURSE BE IMPLEMENTED IN STAGES BUT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO PUT TOGETHER A VIABLE PEACE PLAN. IN ADDITION TO EVERYONE'S DESIRE TO AVOID ANOTHER WAR, HE SAID, WE CANNOT IGNORE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN THE U.S. HE RECALLED IN THIS REGARD THAT DURING A RECENT WEEK IMPORTED OIL REACHED 45 PERCENT OF U.S. CONSUMPTION.

2. SENATOR JAVITS SAID THAT THERE WAS A NEW ELEMENT IN U.S. THINKING ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. IN CONTRAST TO THE PAST, THERE IS NOW A GROWING CONVICTION THAT THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS SOLUBLE. THEREFORE, PEOPLE ARE SAYING "OK, LET'S SOLVE IT". THE SENATOR ADDED THAT WHILE HE HOPED NOT, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO "WRITE THE TICKET" IN WASHINGTON. IF THIS WERE DONE, HE COULD ASSURE HIS ISRAELI FRIENDS THAT THE SOLUTION

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WOULD NOT BE ONE-SIDED, THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD HAVE TO

MAKE CONCESSIONS. HE WOULD ALSO ASSURE ISRAEL THAT IF IT SAID YES IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE OTHER SIDE SAID NO, IT COULD THEN COUNT ON U.S. SUPPORT "FOR A HUNDRED YEARS" OR AS LONG AS DESIRED.

3. SENATOR JAVITS, SUPPORTED BY SENATOR MATHIAS, SAID THAT IN THEIR RECENT DISCUSSIONS THE ARAB LEADERS HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THEY ACCEPTED THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, WERE PREPARED TO LIVE WITH ISRAEL IN THE FUTURE, AND DID NOT WANT WAR. WHEN SENATOR MATHIAS WAS ASKED IF ARAFAT EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS IN THEIR CONVERSATION, THE SENATOR REPLIED THAT ARAFAT HAD TAKEN A MODERATE STANCE WITH RESPECT TO ISRAEL, LEAVING THE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT HE TOO BELIEVES ISRAEL IS HERE TO STAY. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE SENATOR WAS ABOUT TO DEPART, ARAFAT TOLD HIM THAT HE KNEW HE WOULD RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND ONCE AGAIN VOTE FOR MASSIVE ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL. ARAFAT SAID THAT HE WOULD ONLY ASK THE SENATOR TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE ISRAELIS (ALONG WITH THE ASSISTANCE) THAT THERE ARE OTHERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHO ALSO WANT TO LIVE IN FREEDOM AND TO MANAGE THEIR OWN AFFAIRS.

4. THE REACTION OF THE ISRAELIS PRESENT WAS ONE OF GENERAL SKEPTICISM THAT THE PRESENT ARAB LEADERS ARE PREPARED TO TAKE GENUINE STEPS TOWARD PEACE. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE PREVAILING ISRAELI ATTITUDE WAS MINISTER ZADOK'S COMMENT THAT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXTREMIST ARAB LEADERS AND MODERATE ARAB LEADERS IS THAT THE FORMER WANT TO DESTROY ISRAEL NOW WHILE THE LATTER HOPE TO DO SO IN STAGES. (NOTE: ZADOK IS CONSIDERED TO BE A DOVE WITHIN THE CABINET SPECTRUM OF OPINION).  
TOON

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